

HOUSE BILL 715

By Tindell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33,
relative to access to mental health services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

Section 33-6-108.

(a) The commissioner is authorized to create and administer a pool of funds that will be used to make special payments to community service providers. These payments will assist in covering a portion of the costs incurred for providing behavioral health services to those persons in need of such services who are uninsured or medically indigent.

(b) The program developed with the pool of funds appropriated for this purpose shall be developed by the commissioner in consultation with the department of finance and administration. The department of mental health and developmental disabilities shall administer and monitor the program in a manner that fully utilizes the available Mental Health Safety Net Program infrastructure.

(c) This act and the pool of funds required to support the program shall be subject to annual appropriations in the annual appropriations act.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law for purposes of rulemaking, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes it shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.